

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-7, 10-12, 16 and 20-22 are pending. Claims 1, 5-7, 10-12 and 16 have been amended, and claims 20-22 have been added. No new matter has been introduced.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 2 and 18 under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. By this amendment, claims 2 and 18 have been canceled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that these objections are overcome.

The Examiner also objected to claim 5 for informalities. Applicants thank the Examiner for his suggestion that Applicants change the semicolon to a colon. Applicants have followed the Examiner's suggestion and therefore respectfully submit that this objection is overcome.

The Examiner also objected to claim 11 for informalities. Applicants thank the Examiner for his suggestion that Applicants change the wording "described" to "prescribed." Applicants have followed the Examiner's suggestion and therefore respectfully submit that this objection is overcome.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 3 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as his invention. Claim 3 has been cancelled. Claim 7 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's interpretation. Specifically, claim 7, as amended, now recites "wherein, after the door is opened and the alarming device is caused to stop giving the alarming signal, the alarming device is initiated again if the door is closed before a prescribed door open time has elapsed, or the alarming device remains off if the door remains open longer than the prescribed door open time." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 of claims 3 and 7 is overcome.

The Pending Claims Distinguish over the Cited Art

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 14-17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Instead of rewriting claim 14 in independent form, Applicants cancelled claim 14 because Applicants have incorporated the limitations of claim 14 into each of claims 1, 5, 10 and 12. Specifically, each of claims 1, 5, 10 and 12, as amended, recites “a memory device for memorizing a record regarding the refrigerant leak when the power supply is turned on and holding the record when the power supply is turned off, wherein the alarming device gives an additional alarming signal after a prescribed length of time has passed after the power supply has been turned back on.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that each of claims 1, 5, 10 and 12 distinguishes over the cited references.

In addition, because claims 6 and 7 depend from claim 1, claims 23 and 24 depend from claim 5, and claim 11 depends from claim 10, Applicants respectfully submit that each of claims 6, 7, 23, 24 and 11 also distinguishes over the cited references.

Similarly, Applicants have incorporated the limitations of claim 16 into each of new claims 20-22. Specifically, each of claims 20-22 recites “a memory device for memorizing an alarm record when the power supply is turned on and the alarming device gives the alarming signal, and holding the alarm record even though the power supply is turned off, wherein the alarming device gives an additional alarming signal when the power supply is turned back on.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that each of new claims 20-22 distinguishes over the cited references.

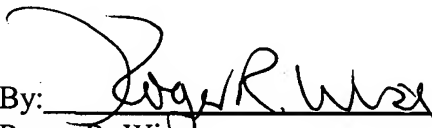
Applicants have canceled claims 14, 15 and 17, and have rewritten claim 16 in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 10, the base claim, as previously written. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 16 is allowable.

Applicants believe that the claims are in condition for allowance, and a favorable action is respectfully requested. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 488-7100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance should the Examiner believe that such a telephone conference would advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP

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By: 
Roger R. Wise
Registration No. 31,204
Attorney for Applicants

725 South Figueroa Street, Suite 2800
Los Angeles, CA 90017-5406
Telephone: (213) 488-7100
Facsimile: (213) 629-1033